



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
HEADQUARTERS
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IN REPLY DO
REFER TO

AUG 30 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: National Hispanic Heritage Month

"Hispanic Americans: Strong and Colorful Threads in the American Fabric," is the theme for this year's National Hispanic Heritage Month. Time is dedicated each year from September 15 - October 15 to celebrate the diversity that exists within the Hispanic community and to honor a culture that has contributed greatly to this country.

The impact of the Hispanic community spans every area of our society, including transportation, literature, and government. Linda Pauwels was the youngest woman ever to become a jet captain at the age of 25. In 2003, Cuban-born Nilo Cruz became the first Hispanic playwright to win a Pulitzer Prize. Other notable achievers include Ramona Acosta Bañuelos, first Hispanic appointed as Treasurer of the United States; Lauro F. Cavazos, first Hispanic to serve as Secretary of Education; Antonia C. Novello, first woman and first Hispanic appointed to the post of United States Surgeon General; and Carlos Gutiérrez, current Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

As of the 2000 Census, the Hispanic population constituted 12.5 percent of the United States population, and there were 1.1 million Latino veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. In 2002, there were approximately 63,000 people of Hispanic-origin serving on active duty in the United States. It is projected that by July 1, 2050, the Hispanic population of the United States will reach 102.6 million people, 24 percent of the Nation's total population. This projected growth provides ample opportunity to tap into a wide talent pool of people that should be considered viable members of the Federal workforce. The past and present accomplishments of Hispanic residents are a preview of what future generations have to offer this great Nation.

Therefore, it is imperative that we take this time out to honor and increase our knowledge of the Hispanic culture, learn its impact on America and the world, and dedicate ourselves to support and enhance advancement opportunities open to all.

KEITH W. LIPPERT
Vice Admiral, SC, USN
Director

